

What is claimed is:

1. A method for acquiring location data about a calling party at a called device, comprising:

receiving, at the called device, an identifier of the calling party through signals from a connection to a signal switching point; and

querying, from the called device, a database containing location data about calling parties that is indexed by identifiers by looking-up the identifier received from the signal switching point to find the associated location data of the calling party.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prior to querying the database, detecting at the called device a particular database to query based on the received identifier; and

querying, from the called party device, the particular database that is detected to obtain the location data.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the calling party identifier is a telephone number of the calling party.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a call trigger into an originating signal switching point, the call trigger containing the telephone number;

transferring the telephone number from the originating signal switching point to the signal switching point; and

forwarding the telephone number from the signal switching point to the called device.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the call trigger includes the telephone number of the called device.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein querying the particular database comprises sending from the called device a query across the Internet to a server in communication with the particular database.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein detecting a particular database to query comprises determining, by the called party device, a category representing the calling party from the identifier wherein the particular database that is detected contains information for the determined category.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is a name of the calling party, the method further comprising:

 sending a query to a signal transfer point from the signal switching point, the query containing a telephone number of the calling party;

 transferring the query from the signal transfer point to an appropriate signal control point;

 looking-up the telephone number in a database accessible by the signal control point to find the name of the calling party;

 transferring the name of the calling party to the signal transfer point from the signal control point;

 sending the name of the calling party to the signal switching point from the signal transfer point; and

 forwarding the name of the calling party from the signal switching point.

9. A system for acquiring location data of a calling party, comprising:
a called device that displays the location data;
a signal switching point configured to forward an identifier of a calling party to the called device;
at least one electronic database in communication with the called device, the at least one electronic database containing location data indexed by identifiers of calling parties, wherein the called device sends a query to the electronic database upon receiving the identifier, the query containing the identifier, and wherein the electronic database looks up the identifier to access the location data provided to the called device.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein prior to querying the electronic database, the called device detects a particular electronic database to query based on the received identifier and wherein the called device queries the particular electronic database that is detected.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein the calling party identifier is a telephone number of the calling party.
12. The system of claim 11, further comprising an originating signal switching point that receives a call trigger from the calling device and forwards the telephone number to the signal switching point.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the originating signal switching point forwards a telephone number of the called party to the signal switching point.
14. The system of claim 10, wherein the called device sends the query to the particular electronic database across the Internet to a server in communication with the particular electronic database.
15. The system of claim 10, wherein the called device detects the particular electronic database by determining a category representing the calling party from the identifier and

wherein the particular electronic database that is detected contains location data for the determined category.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a name of the calling party, the system further comprising:

a signal transfer point in communication with the signal switching point, wherein the signal switching point sends an identifier query to the signal transfer point that contains a telephone number of the calling party, and wherein the signal transfer point receives the name of the calling party and forwards it to the signal switching point; and

a signal control point in communication with the signal transfer point, wherein the signal transfer point forwards the identifier query to the signal control point and the signal control point looks up the telephone number to find the name of the calling party, and sends the name of the calling party to the signal transfer point.

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17. A system for acquiring location data of a calling party, comprising:
a telephone network;
a computing device interfaced with the telephone network, the computing device being configured to receive an identifier of the calling party, detect an electronic database containing location data associated with the identifier, send a query containing the identifier to the detected database in response to receiving the identifier, and display the location data; and
a plurality of electronic databases in communication with the computing device, the plurality of electronic databases containing location data for calling parties, the plurality of electronic databases being configured so that the detected electronic database from the plurality of electronic databases receives the query and looks up the identifier to obtain the location data.
18. The system of claim 17, wherein the identifier is the telephone number of the calling party.
19. The system of claim 17, wherein the computing device detects an electronic database by determining a category representing the calling party and selecting an electronic database that contains location data for the category.
20. The system of claim 17, wherein one or more of the electronic databases of the plurality are in communication with the computing device through the Internet.